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NEWSLETTER Issue: 10 May 29th 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's hard to believe that tomorrow is the 1st of June! It has been an exceptionally busy few weeks in Athenry Primary School between standardised testing, tours and many enjoyable workshops and sporting events. We congratulate our Second and Sixth Class children this month on receiving their sacraments; they represented you and the school so well and we are very proud of them. June is promising to be another action packed month with lots of lovely experiences in store for the children.

However, June is also a month for saying goodbye as our wonderful Sixth class pupils transition to Secondary education and a month to extend a warm welcome to our new infants as they start a new and exciting chapter in their little lives. We are excited for each and every one of them.

Thank you for your continued support always;

Kind regards,

Cathriona Cronin

Don't forget to follow us on:

Website: www.athenryprimaryschool.ie

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/athenryprimaryschool/>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/cHcBhSVUzr0?feature=shared>

IMPORTANT DATES

- Photographer coming on Friday June 6th to collect order forms for the Communion photos
- **Junior Infants 2025/2026 Open day:** Friday June 13th from 1:00pm to 2.00pm. *(All pupils in this year's Junior & Senior infant classes will go home at 12.30pm on this day)*
- **Bake Sale organised by 6th Class:** Tuesday June 17th in the hall on Campus A
- **Graduation for 6th class:** June 24th at 11am in the library on Campus B
- **Last day of school:** school closes at 12 noon on Thursday June 26th

INFORMATION ITEMS

We have been successful in a recent *review of our Special Education teacher allocation* as initiated and undertaken by our Special Education Team. The SEN Team submitted an incredibly detailed application and made a convincing case for our school as part of an in-house review process by the NCSE which required a considerable volume of paperwork. Thanks to all our class teachers and SNAs for their collaboration and input also. We will now have 8 fulltime Special Education teachers going into the new school year and an additional

temporary SET to cater for pupils with additional language needs. We still feel this allocation falls somewhat short but are very content nonetheless to take this gain.

A **new prefab** is being installed on our top yard. This project will extend into the summer with a completion date of the middle of August. This prefab will house our recently appointed 21st class teacher as our school continues to grow. The top yard is only accessible to our fourth class children for the month of June as a walkway has been created for them to enter and exit their classrooms each day. All other children are asked to enter and exit via the bottom yard/astroturf.

Several staff members are currently working on the first draft of our new ***Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Policy*** which comes into effect at the beginning of the new school year after ratification by the BOM. Once this first draft is complete, it will be emailed to all parents for feedback and input. At the same time the children are being taught some key points from the new guidelines and our 6th class pupils are drafting a child friendly version of the policy. Both policies will be available to view on our school website once the consultation process with all stakeholders is complete. Thank you for your engagement with the survey.

All classes are currently involved in a competition to write a ***new motto for our school***. Entries will be whittled down by staff and pupils will vote to decide on the winning motto. A special word of thanks to Ms. McKenna and Mr Hanley for their help with this project. Pupil agency and voice is very important to us.

The school is deeply thankful to Emmet Byrne of Byrnemech who has generously offered to sponsor ***jerseys and singlets*** for our new school. Mr Burke is working on the design project at the moment. We are looking forward to sharing the finalised designs with you soon.

An email will issue shortly with regards to ***hot meal*** provision in the school for the new school year.

Congratulations to ***Miss Murphy's 2nd class*** who had the best attendance for the month of April!

Standardised Testing has been carried out in all the relevant classes during the month of May. Results will be given as a Standard score as opposed to a Sten score. Your child's results will be noted on their End of Year school report which will be available on Aladdin towards the end of June.

The Schools Nurse will be here on Monday June 16th to do Hearing & Vision screening with Junior Infant pupils (plus any pupils who are new to the country)

Written Homework is suspended for June. Reading will continue to be assigned and of course Accelerated Reader.

Mr Kelly challenged our senior pupils to a 5 million word reading target on ***Accelerated Reader*** for the month of May. We've smashed his target and we are gearing up for his June target which will keep us all reading well into the night!!!

Our May Bookfair was a resounding success bringing €1,800 worth of book credit to the school. Mr Kelly is working on using this money to buy additional reading material for our AR library during the month of June and we are very thankful to him for everything he is doing to engage and motivate readers across the school.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saying Goodbye to Mrs Hallissey

We are losing a much valued member of staff this year as Mrs Hallissey retires after 19 years of working as an SNA in our school. The school community is currently planning an in-house event to mark Mrs. Hallissey's contribution to our school. She will be very much missed.

School Photo

We plan to take the very first whole Athenry Primary School photograph in June as well as a photograph of the very first APS band. Keep an eye on our social media platforms as these promise to be very special ones.

APS Annual Bake sale

Our 6th class pupils will host a bake sale in the Campus A hall on Tuesday, June 17th. All pupils will be invited to the hall to buy some goodies and take part in a few games. This bake sale is a fundraising event for the school, however some of the proceeds will go towards Cancer Care West. The 6th class pupils will send a communication to you in advance of the bake sale with regards to support that may be needed.

Junior Infants 2025 / 2026

Next year's Junior Infants are invited to come into the school on **Friday June 13th from 1pm to 2pm** to meet the teachers and their new classmates. To facilitate this, pupils in the current Junior and Senior Infant classes will go home at 12.30pm on that day to free up the teachers and classrooms for the visiting pupils.

The Junior Infants do not need to wear the school uniform nor do they need to bring a school bag. Parents are invited to gather in the school hall while the children are in the classrooms. This will give parents the chance to meet one another and have a chat with school management

Sports Day

We are heading to Kenny Park for Sports Day which is planned for either the 18th or 19th of June. Our Sixth Class pupils are organising and running the event which will comprise of a series of active stations around Kenny Park. Children from Juniors to Second will be catered for in the first half of the day and the seniors will follow them so as to allow maximum engagement and fun for all.

Graduation

We are thinking especially this coming month of our wonderful Sixth Class pupils who are leaving us after 8 long years and moving on to a new and very exciting chapter in their lives.

To mark this milestone, a Graduation mass and ceremony has been organised for our Campus B 6th class pupils for Tuesday June 24th at 11am. Sixth Class parents are invited to attend. This will be the final day in school for the boys and girls. The pupils do not need to wear their uniform on this day.



Please note: for pupils transitioning to secondary school, parents need to forward any professional reports to their child's new school, along with the Enrolment form. Athenry Primary School will only share information in relation to attendance, end of year school reports and standardised test results with your child's new school.

School Books and School Supplies

The Department of Education is funding the cost of all textbooks, workbooks and copies for all pupils again next year. In practice this means that the school will purchase all these items for all pupils and the pupils will receive the items on the first day of school (Thurs Aug 28th). The textbooks will remain the property of the school, as these will be re-used for pupils each year.

There are some other items which pupils will need for school, and these will be specified on a "Supplies list" which will be emailed to all parents towards the end of June. The name of your child's teacher for next school year will be noted on the "Supplies List".

The usual €50 school costs fee will still apply, as this figure is used to cover photocopying, arts & crafts materials, school insurance etc. for the pupils

School Tours

Below is a summary of remaining tours for June. The charge for all tours is on Aladdin. We are kindly asking every family to engage with the Aladdin app to make payment.

Date	Class Teacher	Venue	Price
Tuesday June 10 th	Mrs Greally (5 th class) Mr Burke (5 th class) Mr McAndrew (5 th class) Mr Duffy (6 th class) Mr Kelly (6 th class) Mrs Morrissey (6 th class)	Emerald Park, Ashbourne, Co. Meath	€45
Monday June 16 th	Mrs Murphy (2 nd class) Ms McHugh (2 nd class)	Wildlands, Moycullen, Co. Galway	€45
Friday June 20 th	Miss Curran (3 rd class) Ms Kennedy (3 rd class)	Pure Skill, Knocknacarra, Galway	€30
Monday June 23 rd	Mr Hanley (1 st class) Ms McSpadden (1 st class) Miss Lambe (1 st class)	Let's Go! Kingfisher, NUIG, Galway	€40









School Summer Programme

Mr Burke is managing the APS Summer programme which takes place on campus A from June 30th to July 11th. He has recruited a team of teachers and SNAs to run the programme with him and is in the process of planning the programme at present. All parents of eligible children have been contacted. A communication from Mr Burke will follow closer to the time with all the necessary details and information.

OUT AND ABOUT WITH APS

A special word of thanks to the collective staff of APS which includes our secretaries, teachers and SNAs who are making this schedule of activities possible. Between training children and teams, organising events and buses, supervising children at team events and celebrating their participation and achievements at assemblies and on social media; this is a major operation!

All photos from these events are on our [Instagram Page](#)

<p>Camogie Hurling Gaelic Football</p> 	<p>GAA coaching is continuing throughout the school and will continue into term 3. Thanks to Cormac Mulry (GAA Games Development Officer) and Mr Duffy, Mr Burke and Mrs Melville for providing this opportunity for the pupils</p> <p>Our senior pupils from 3rd to 6th have represented the school in both hurling and football at the Parish Cup and Cumann na mBunscoil over the last few weeks. We have been so impressed with the overall attitude, behaviour and team spirit which all of the children have displayed as they battled tirelessly on the field to take a win home for the school. They are all winners in our eyes!</p> <p>We have added three new APS cups to our trophy cabinet and are looking forward to many more sporting occasions to come. All of our teams and all details are featured on our Instagram Page.</p>
<p>Gymnastics</p> 	<p>Miss Rhattigan is a qualified gymnastics coach and she is facilitating gymnastics workshops over the month of June for all interested classes.</p>
<p>Athletics</p> 	<p>Congratulations to our Athletic team who represented us so brilliantly at Dangan recently under the stewardship of Mr McDonald. We made 7 finals on the day and came away with three medals: a gold in the senior boys relay, a silver in the 800m race walk and a bronze in the U9 400m.</p>
<p>Cycling</p> 	<p>Our Campus B pupils took part in a Cycle Right Workshop in May. It's great to see some of our senior pupils cycling daily to school. This workshop is an important piece each year as it teaches road and cycle safety in the context of a busy town.</p>
<p>Volleyball</p> 	<p>Our three 4th classes took part in Volleyball workshops at the beginning of May and played a blitz as a finish in Coláiste an Eachreidh</p>
<p>Padel</p> 	<p>A Padel workshop came to campus B in May and was enjoyed by all</p>
<p>Swimming</p> 	<p>Our two 3rd classes did a week of swimming lessons in early May in the Raheen Woods Hotel. They walked to and from the leisure centre to get their steps in!</p>
<p>Basketball and Soccer</p> 	<p>May 13th was busy with our 5th and 6th class girls participating in a Soccer tournament in Maree as well as a team heading to Cregmore for a basketball event</p>

Community Links
Snapshot

- Mrs Monson's 4th class made and sold "Squishy Pals" to all the pupils on Campus A as part of a new business venture project
- Two of the 4th classes went to Renville on a Seashore Safari
- Multiple classes have visited Athenry Castle, gone on walking tours of the town and visited Athenry Playground
- Pete Elwood from Medtronic gave STEM workshops to Campus B
- Martin Curly, historian, has spent time with the pupils on Campus B exploring local history and family trees
- Pupils from 3rd to 6th have been enjoying German classes after school with Mrs Kennedy as part of the Modern Foreign Language Programme running in schools